

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention.

Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 3. Claim 6 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 7 has been amended to correct the multiple dependency.

Claims 1–3, 4, and 6–7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oei et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,614,024) in view of Chung (U.S. Patent No. 6,039,326). For at least the following reasons the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

None of the references disclose or suggest “each of said light signal limiting units operative to allow only an electric signal having a signal level lower than a predetermined threshold value to pass therethrough and delete an electric signal having a signal level equal to or greater than said predetermined threshold value” as recited in claim 1. The Office Action on pages 2–3 refers to Chung as disclosing these elements.

Chung discloses photosensors 501, 503 connected to programmable gain circuits 505, 519, which are connected to A/D converters 507, 517, which in turn are connected to gating circuits 509, 515 (col. 6, lines 49–67; Fig. 5). In Chung, a photo-selection control circuit 511 examines each digitized photo-sensor signal to determine if it meets the predetermined criteria for pulse width and pulse frequency (col. 6, lines 57–60). Chung discloses that if the digitized photo-sensor signal fails to meet the predetermined criteria, then the signal is most likely noise and is gated via the gating circuit 509, 515 by setting it to zero (col. 6, lines 60–62).

Chung is filtering the infrared signals that fall below a predetermined threshold value in order to filter signals that are most likely noise and to identify a photosensor providing the optimal infrared link, thereby improving signal-to-noise ratios. Since Chung only discloses that an infrared signal that *falls below* a predetermined threshold value is gated by setting it to zero, Chung clearly does not teach or suggest that an infrared signal that is *equal to or greater than* the predetermined threshold value is gated by setting it to zero. Therefore, Chung does not disclose or suggest that each of the gating circuits are operative *to allow* only an electric signal having a signal level *lower than a predetermine threshold value to pass* and to *delete* an electric signal having a signal level *equal to or great than the predetermined threshold value*. Thus, even if combined, the references do not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

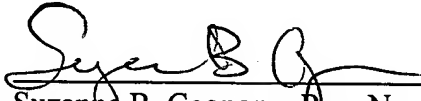
With regards to claim 6, none of the references disclose or suggest “a housing having a first axis passing through said right speaker and said left speaker, and a second axis substantially perpendicular to said first axis and passing through a middle point of said first axis in equidistantly spaced relationship with said right speaker and said left speaker, said light signal receiving units are opposing to each other across a plane passing through said first axis and said second axis.”

Oei and Chung do not disclose or suggest any light signal receiving units that are opposing to each other across a plane passing through right and left speakers. The Office Action also does not refer to any elements in Oei or Chung that would disclose such elements. Therefore, even if combined, the references do not disclose or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 36394.

Respectfully submitted,
PEARNE & GORDON, LLP

By: 
Suzanne B. Gagnon – Reg. No. 48,924

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

Date: December 29, 2006